

DELL
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JANUARY-FEBRUARY

THE

10¢

CISCO KID



TAMING A LONGHORN



NOT MANY COWPUNCHERS ALIVE TODAY REMEMBER THE DIFFICULTIES OF ROPING AND BRANCOING A REALLY WILD TEXAS LONGHORN STEER FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HIS KICKING, REBELLIOUS LIFE. IT OFTEN TOOK FOUR OR FIVE MEN TO ROPE AND THROW THE OLD MOSSYHORNS. TODAY, CATTLE ARE ALMOST SURELY BRANCOED WHILE THEY ARE STILL CALVES. VERY FEW WAVERICKS RUN THE RANGES AND THE ART OF HANDLING WILD CATTLE IS ALMOST FORGOTTEN. ONE EFFICIENT METHOD OF BRINGING A LONGHORN BACK TO THE CORRAL OR BRANCOING CAMP WAS TO ROPE HIM, NECK AND NECK, WITH A TAME OX, TRAINED TO LEAD THE RANGE CRITTER. THE OX STRUGGLED WITH THE LONG-

HORN, SLOWLY WEARING DOWN HIS STRENGTH UNTIL HE COULD LEAD THE BIG ANIMAL WHEREVER THE BRANCOING CREW WAITED. THIS SAVED WEAR AND TEAR ON HARD-WORKING COWPOKES WHO HAD NO TIME TO WASTE LEADING A SINGLE STEER ON THE END OF A ROPE.



THE CISCO KID

AND THE APACHE RIDGE BANDITS

ONE MORNING IN THE
ARIZONA HILLS

CISCO! THERE WAS
MAIL IN TOWN! A
LETTER FOR PANCHO
FROM HIS MAMA, MAYBE?

NO, PANCHO! ONLY
A LETTER FOR ME
FROM JASON
HARRIS! REMEMBER
HIM?

SE? THE NEWSPAPER
SAYS IN ROLLING
DICE? A NICE HOMER?
PANCHO WOULD LIKE
TO SEE HIM AGAIN?

YOU WILL? BUT
HE WILL NOT
SEE YOU! HE
WAS BLINDED
SEVERAL MONTHS
AGO BY A STRAY
BULLET FIRED
DURING A STREET
FIGHT!

MACHE MUST THEN
HOW DOES HE WRITE
CISCO THE LETTER?

A FRIEND WROTE
IT FOR HIM! HE
WANTS US TO
COME UP TO ROLL-
ING DICE FRONTON!

THE MINE OWNERS ARE BEING PLAGUED
BY PAYROLL BANDITS AND FACE BANK-
RUPTCY! THE SHERIFF IS LAID UP WITH
A BROKEN LEG! HIS DEPUTY IS, TO
QUOTE JASON--- "SO IGNORANT HE
COULD NOT TEACH A COW TO MOO!"

HUMPH! NEITHER
COULD PANCHO! AS
FOR THAT MATTER
COULD DICE?

I HAVE
NEVER TRIED!

MID-AFTERNOON, SEVERAL DAYS LATER...



SANTO! THIS TOWN GROWS
LIKE ANYTHING! SO MANY
BUILDINGS! SO MANY PEOPLE!

SE! THE DISCOVERY
OF COPPER ON
APACHE RIDGE
REALLY STARTED
IT BOOMING!

BANK OF ROLLING STONE

The Cluckin'

WHY IT IS? EVERY
TIME SOMEBODY
MAKES A DISCOVERY
LIKE THAT, PARCHO IS
TOO FAR AWAY TO...

HOLD IT! THAT
HOMER COMING
OUT OF THE BANK!
I HAVE SEEN HIM
BEFORE, UNDER
UNPLEASANT
CONDITIONS---
I THINK!

PARDON, SEÑOR!
DID WE NOT MEET
IN EL PASO A FEW
YEARS AGO?

WE MIGHT
HAVE! ONLY---
NA! NA!--- I'VE
NEVER SEEN
THESE!



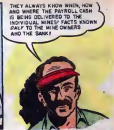
AN' IF I HAD, I WOULDN'T HAVE
STAYED LONG ENOUGH TO MEET
JEFERSON! CAN'T STAND CITIES!
OR EVEN TOWNS THIS SIZE! NEVER
COME HERE UNLESS I HAVE TO!

AN' NEVER STAY LONGER THAN
I CAN HELP! MUST HAVE SEEN---
NA! NA!--- TWO OTHER HOMERS
YOU MET IN EL PASO, MISTER!



SUNSHINE







DON'T KNOW WHAT I'D DO WITHOUT HIM! HE WRITES HALF THE PAPER, SETS THE ADS, SETS TYPE, DOES THE PRINTING AND EVEN DELIVERS THE PAPERS THREE TIMES A WEEK!

IF I'M GOIN' TO GO ANY DELIVERIN' TOMORROW, WE'D BETTER GET TO WORK!

I SUPPOSE SO! BUT I DID WANT TO TALK TO CISCO AND RANDO SOME MORE! I HAVE---



WE HAVE THINGS TO DO, TOO! WE WILL TALK LATER!

AT SUPPER, EH? MY HOUSEKEEPER IS FIXING FRIED CHICKEN! BE BACK AT SIX IF THAT SOUNDS GOOD TO YOU!

GOOD? SORRY, TO RANDO, IT SOUNDS LIKE THE MUSIC OF THE SPEARS! OR IS IT STEERS?

IT IS SAVED! WE ACCEPT WITH THANKS, JASON! ADIOS!



A FEW MINUTES LATER, IN THE BANK...

BUT, CISCO, ONLY TWO PEOPLE IN THIS BANK KNOW WHEN, WHERE AND HOW THE MONEY IS DELIVERED TO THE MINES! I'M ONE! MY CASHIER, CASPAR MOORE, IS THE OTHER!

I WOULD HARDLY STOOP TO BANDITRY! AND TO SUSPECT CASPAR IS RIDICULOUS! HE'S BEEN WITH ME SINCE THE BANK OPENED!



BESIDES, IF CASPAR CAME FACE-TO-FACE WITH A BADMAN—EVEN ON A FRIENDLY BASIS—I THINK HE'D FAINT! TAKE A LOOK AT THAT FIRST WINDOW! YOU'LL SEE WHAT I MEAN!



DOES HE LOOK LIKE A CROOK, CISCO?

NO! BUT NEITHER DID BILLY THE KID!



SEREN, WHICH OF YOU TAKES THE PAYROLLS TO THE MINES?

I USED TO! LATELY, THE MINE OWNERS HAVE COME THEMSELVES OR SENT SOMEONE! CASPAR HAS NEVER TAKEN ANY!



WHEN IS THE NEXT ONE DUE TO GO OUT?

TOMORROW! TO THE RED SHOOSH MINE! LUKE JONES, THE OWNER, WILL BE HERE WHEN THE BANK OPENS!



SO WILL IT AND IF HE IS WILLING, PERHAPS AIF PARROLL WILL REACH THE MEN FOR WHOM IT IS INTENDED!

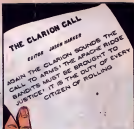
I HOPE SO! YOU CAN COUNT ON MY COOPERATION! AND LUKE'S, TOO!



WELL, ELMER, HOW DOES IT LOOK IN PRINT?

SWELL! IT'S ONE OF YOUR BEST! I... OH! HERE COME CISCO AND PARCHO!





SERGE JASON! NOW THE
SAM HILL BLAZES DID YOU
KNOW IT WAS CISCO ---
NOT PARCHO --- WHO
WAS GOING?

BY HIS FOOTSTEPS!
ALTHOUGH I HAVEN'T
BEEN BLIND LONG,
ALREADY MY OTHER
SENSES ARE
BECOMING VERY
ACUTE!



SARTON! HE COULD NOT HAVE
GONE FAR! THE DUST HAS
NOT SETTLED IN HIS PRINTS!
BUT WHERE?



THE BARK! I WONDER
PERHAPS THROUGH THAT
WINDOW I CAN SEE...



BUT BEFORE CISCO REACHES THE WINDOW,
A GRATING DOOR HINGE SENDS HIM
TO COVER!



SURE WISH I HAD YOUR
NERVE, CASPAR!
NOTHING EVER
RUFFLES YOU!

NOT WHERE
MONEY'S CONCERNED
STOP WORRYING! I'LL
HANDLE EVERYTHING!
NOW CLEAR OUT
BEFORE SOMEBODY
SEES YOU!



MMMM! THAT WAS
INTERESTING! BUT
NOT VERY INFORMATIVE!



CISCO KEEPS HIS OWN COUNSEL UNTIL MUCH LATER...

ON THE SURFACE, THE INCIDENT SEEMS UNIMPORTANT, JASON? BUT ADDED TO CASPAR'S KNOWLEDGE OF THE PAYROLL DELIVERIES --- AND ELMER'S NERVOUSNESS WHICH HE LEARNED WHY WE WERE HERE ---



HE'S BEEN WITH ME EVERY TIME THERE'S BEEN ONE! AND IF THAT DOESN'T ALIBI HIM ---

IT SEEMS TO! BUT SUPPOSE HE GOT THE PATROLL INFORMATION FROM CASPAR AND ---



AND YOU STILL HAVEN'T MUCH OF A TOTAL! BESIDES, ELMER COULDN'T BE MIXED UP IN THE ROBBERIES!



LAMPLIGHT GLINTING ON BLUE STEEL...



...STOPS CISCO SHORT AND...

MADRE MIAT BUSH SOLDIERS!

WHAT IN THUNDER...?









4:10 P.M.

"ORAY, BUD!
LET'S GO!"

"SUITS MEY I'VE BEEN
WAITIN' A LONG TIME
TO SETTLE MY SCORE
WITH THAT JASPER!"



4:15 P.M.

"RANCHO' LIKE AN'
THE DEPUTY'NE JUST
PULUH' OUT!"

"BUENO! IN FIVE
MINUTES, WE DO
THE SAME! BUT NOT
BY THE ROAD! WE
RIDE ALONGSIDE'S
AND LISTEN FOR
THE GUNSHOTS!"



4:40 P.M.

"LOOKS LIKE HE'S
HEADING FOR
OTTE CANYON!"

"SO LET'S HEAD
OVER THAT RISE
AN' CUT HIM OFF!"



4:55 P.M.

"SANTO! THE BANDITS!
BUT HOW DID THEY
GET 'WISE?"



"MOVE, DIABLO!
THOSE HOMERES
ARE GOOD SHOTS!"



"GUNSHOTS! COMIN'
FROM THE ROUTE
CISED'S TAKIN'!
WE'D BETTER GET
OVER THERE FAST!"



"HURRY, HOMERES!
SEAN JONES AND THE
DEPUTY ARE IN BIG
TROUBLE---I THINK!"





LATER



"BEST OF EACH OF
JAIL & TODAY!" -
VERY CLEVER!



BEFORE HE LEFT, HE TOLD
ME HOW HE WORKED IT! HE
TOPPED MY COLUMN WITH
THAT CODE IN THE LAST
PAPER HE RAN OFF! AND
LEFT IT FOR ONE OF THE
GANGS TO PICK UP!

BUT, SHERIFF JASON,
HOW COULD YOU
READ--



THERE WAS NO GANG!
ONLY CASPAR MOORE
AND BUD SPINNEY! BUD
WAS THE HONORÉ ELMER
SET THIS UP FOR?



THE NEXT MORNING



THE CISCO KID

IN
TROUBLE IN
TUMBLEWEED

EARLY ONE MORNING AS
CISCO AND PANCHO
BREAK CAMP .





HIMPH! PARCHO CAN TELL FART FROM
HERE---IN FOUR WORDS! CROOKS! GULKSUGGERY!
BUSHGULCHINGS! POTSHOOTINGS! ALWAYS IT
IS THE SAME!

AND IT WILL BE---UNTIL LAW IS
ESTABLISHED IN EVERY CORNER
OF THIS NEW, WILD LAND! BUT---



CISCO! LOOK! BUZZARDS
GOING ROUND AND ROUND!

A SURE
SIGN DEATH IS
CLOSING IN ON SOME-
THING BELOW THEM!



JINGLE YOUR SPURS, AMIGO!
WE SHALL SEE WHETHER IT IS
AN ANIMAL OR A MAN!



A-EE! A
HOMER!

AND BADLY HURT, JUDGING
FROM THE WAY HE IS LYING!



ODD HE WOULD BE OUT
HERE---WITHOUT A
HORSE---OR EVEN
A HAT!

MAYBE HE LOSE
BOTH OF THEM!
AND HIMSELF,
TOO?

















MEANWHILE AT THE G-SLASH-J...

BELIEVE ME, BOSS, WHEN I SAW THAT BODY
ON THE FAT BOY'S HORSE, I WAS FLABBER-
GASTED! SO I RIGHTTAILED IT BACK
HERE AN' ———

INSTEAD OF TELLING CISCO AND
PARCHO AND MARINE SURE THEY——
AND THE BODY—— DIDN'T
REACH TOWN!



BUT, BOSS, NOBODY
AROUND HERE CAN
IDENTIFY THAT JASPER!
EVEN THE GAL'S NEVER
LAID EYES ON HIM AN'——

DON'T UNDERESTIMATE
CISCO! HE'LL NOT ONLY
TACKLE THE IMPOSSIBLE
HE'LL DO IT!



THEN I'D BETTER LINE
UP A COUPLE OF THE
BOYS AN' SEE ABOUT
REMOVIN' HIM FROM
THE PICTURE!

RIGHT!
AND NO
SLIP-UPS!



SOMETIME LATER...

HERE THEY COME,
BOYS! GET SET!



MAKRE HIL!
BUSHOLCHERS!
AND NO PLACES
TO HIDE!

MAKRE FOR
THOSE ROCKS!





CISCO CRAWLS SLOWLY
TOWARD DIABLO



TEX! WE'RE WASTIN'
LEAD AN' TIME! THAT
BLASTED SUN

WE'LL KEEP 'EM
PINNED DOWN THERE
TILL SUNDOWN IF WE
HAVE TO! THE BOSS
SAID GET 'EM!



WHEEL
BOY!



SO FAR,
SO GOOD!

AT SNAIL'S PACE, CISCO HEADS FOR
HIGHER ROCKS



REACHES THEM SAFELY

GUDD! THEY HAVE NOT
SEEN ME---THANKS TO THE
SUN AND PARCHOP





YES! DON'T LEAVE US! HELP!

SORRY! FROM HERE ON, IT'S EVERY MAN FOR HIMSELF!



CRACK!

BOOM!

WHO THE---?



PANCHITO! I HAVE ROPED TWO OF THEM! SET OVER HERE QUICKLY AND TAKE CHARGE!

WITH PLEASURE!



PANCHITO'S COMIN' ON THE DOUBLE, AL! HURRY WITH THAT KNIFE!

I'VE GOT IT! NOW.



A LITTLE LATER





